

Weekly Weather Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone: 601-965-4575
Facsimile: 601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov

Week Ending May 4, 2003

Released: 3:00 P.M., May 5, 2003

According to the Mississippi Agricultural Statistics Service, there were 6.0 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending May 4, 2003**. Warm, windy conditions allowed rapid progress in planting for cotton, rice and soybeans. Soil moisture was rated 3 percent very short, 19 percent short, 58 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2002	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Planted	99	97	99	95	0	3	22	57	18
	Emerged	95	85	90	86					
Cotton	Planted	64	26	51	39	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	30	10	25	18					
Rice	Planted	69	50	70	71	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	35	26	40	40					
Sorghum	Planted	70	44	54	60	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	49	23	35	37					
Soybeans	Planted	68	42	52	44	--	--	--	--	--
	Emerged	48	29	32	28					
Wheat	Heading	96	68	97	91	0	7	44	45	4
Hay (Cool Season)	Harvested	50	35	44	32	--	--	--	--	--
Watermelons	Planted	90	79	87	71	1	4	20	69	6
Cattle						2	5	18	61	14
Pasture						1	8	24	54	13

County Agent Comments

"Heavy rains late last week stopped planting. Corn is emerging with slight insect damage. Some tomato plants are being hit with wilt. Winter hay is excellent with good yields. Homeowners are beginning to fertilize lawns."

— Tim Needham, Tippah

"The south end of the county is dry and is needing a good pre-emergent rain and the north end is needing to stay a little drier. Crops have been planted in a very swift fashion."

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

"Very Dry! Rains that everyone else received last week missed us. Corn is starting to show drought stress. Forecast of thunderstorms has slowed ryegrass hay harvest."

— Mark Mowdy, Franklin

"Some of the farmers are beginning to harvest hay. This week will be a great week to harvest hay and get it out of the field."

— Thomas E. Brewer, Jefferson Davis

“Corn planting is complete. Soybeans and cotton are now being planted. Corn is looking really good, even though a rain is needed. Cool season forages are about played out. Stocker cattle will be 50 to 100 pounds lighter than in years past.”

— Jon Kilgore, Lawrence

“Blueberry growers indicated to me the other day that they will be looking to begin harvesting in about 3 ½ to 4 weeks. Cool nights have slowed down the growth of watermelons. Cool season hay harvest has begun with excellent weather conditions.”

— Allen McReynolds, Wayne

“If the rain holds off, producers will plant a lot of acres in the next week.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“Scattered rains mostly in the northern part of the county on Thursday evening stopped planting for a few days. There were many thousand acres planted in the county this week. The warmer conditions should help the young plants that are just emerging.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“Farmers had a chance to plant corn, soybeans and cotton before the rain. We need plenty of sunshine and dry weather to get back into the fields.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“Wet weather continues to delay all farm work!”

— Ricky Ferguson, Pontotoc

“Producers need some dry weather to continue planting. Cotton planting started last week, but only a small portion of the crop was planted. No hay has been harvested yet. Soybean planting will start as soon as soil conditions will allow.”

— Dalton G. Garner, Prentiss

“The primary local activity is cotton planting.”

— Karen Benson, Attala

“The corn figures are the same as last week because of replant problems. Cotton planting is going faster in some areas than others in the county due to the various soil moisture conditions. High winds over the past few days have dried soils and prevented pasture spraying.”

— Sonia Hancock, Rankin

“Corn planting is completed and soybean planting is well underway. Pastures are looking very good with adequate rainfall.”

— Ed Williams Oktibbeha

“Dry weather has allowed many producers to put up some excellent quality hay. Cattle producers are in need of some rain to get their summer pastures going. Gardens and yards are beginning to suffer, and some have already began watering. A chance of rain is in the forecast for this week.”

— Richard Hay, Amite

“Believe it or not, we are dry in most parts of the county due to high winds. Cool nights are holding back our truck crops.”

— Perry Brumfield, Lincoln

“We are turning dry and need a rain to boost summer pastures and planted crops. We need rain soon to avoid serious stress to pastures and crops.”

— Lamar Adams, Walthall

“Beef producers are trying to get ryegrass hay harvested. Corn has gotten off to a bad start with some problems with crows and raccoons in some fields. Cattle are beginning to pick up some body condition.”

— Lee Taylor, Forrest

“We need it to rain and clear out so that cool season hay harvest can resume.”

— Tommy Bishop, Jasper

“Hail continues to be a problem to crops. Saturday’s hail storms hit crops that had received prior hail damage. This type of weather is continuing to reduce potential yields for the corn crop and winter wheat.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“Growers were able to get a lot of fieldwork done last week. Crops are off to a good start. Wheat has some light strips rust and a few armyworms.”

— Don Repress, Bolivar

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Cooperative
Extension Service
Dr. Joseph H. McGilberry, Director

Southern Regional Climate Center
Louisiana State University
Elizabeth Mons
Service Climatologist

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Agricultural
Statistics Service
Thomas L. Gregory, State Statistician

Weather Summary from April 28, 2003 to May 4, 2003 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Charleston				66		0.10 E	-1.18	1	3.27E				
Cleveland	87	51	71	66	+5	0.14	-1.05	1	2.66				
Tunica	88	61	75	66	+9	0.30	-1.03	2	3.35	83			0.25
Extreme/Average	88	51	73	67	+6	0.18	-1.08	1	3.09	83			0.25
2. North-Central													
Batesville				65		0.13	-1.06	1	4.13				
Calhoun City				65		0.51	-0.78	1	6.88				
Independence				64		0.33 E	-0.86	2	3.14E				
Oxford				64		0.20 E	-1.06	1	2.88E				
Extreme/Average				66		0.32	-0.96	1	4.72				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	85	53	69	64	+5	0.28	-1.06	1	6.20				
Corinth City				66		0.40 E	-0.89	1	5.16				
Iuka				61		0.00	-1.32	0	4.86				
Ripley				63		0.43	-0.83	1	5.62				
Tupelo						0.00		0	6.44				
Extreme/Average	85	53	69	66	+3	0.24	-1.04	1	6.09				
4. Lower Delta													
Belzoni				68		0.00	-1.43	0	2.80				
Rolling Fork	90	55	75	68	+7	0.00	-1.26	0	3.82	96	64	82	
Stoneville	88	58	75	68	+7	0.00	-1.26	0	3.78	88	62	76	0.26
Yazoo City	88	48	72	68	+4	0.00	-1.33	0	5.80				0.64
Extreme/Average	90	48	74	69	+5	0.00	-1.19	0	4.05	96	62	79	0.32
5. Central													
Canton	89	50	71	68	+3	0.00	-1.40	0	8.57				
Carthage	89	48	72	66	+6	0.00	-1.33	0	9.95				
Lexington				65					4.00				
Eupora	86	49	69	65	+4	0.16	-1.04	1	4.56				
Extreme/Average	89	48	71	67	+4	0.05	-1.21	0	7.69				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen				65		0.00	-1.24	0	4.46				0.25
Houston				64		0.22	-0.98	1	6.31				
Louisville				65		0.20	-1.06	1	6.98				
State University	88	49	70	66	+4	0.18	-1.03	1	5.55	79	62	73	0.20
Extreme/Average	88	49	70	67	+3	0.15	-1.09	1	5.83	79	62	73	0.22
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	90	55	73	69	+4	0.10	-1.13	1	1.60	91	64	79	
Natchez	88	52	73	69	+4	0.00	-1.33	0	1.69				
Oakley	90	55	73	67	+6	0.04	-1.17	1	6.68	90	69	81	
Vicksburg	91	49	73			0.04		1	9.12				
Extreme/Average	91	49	73	69	+4	0.05	-1.21	1	4.77	91	64	80	
8. South-Central													
Collins	88	50	73	68	+5	0.02	-1.31	1	2.87				
Columbia	89	55	73	69	+4	0.87	-0.46	1	4.65				
Tylertown	89	46	71	69	+2	0.00	-1.33	0	7.03				
Extreme/Average	89	46	72	69	+3	0.30	-0.96	1	4.85				
9. Southeast													
Beaumont	88	52	71			0.50 E		1	6.11E				
Hattiesburg	86	52	72	69	+3	0.21	-1.05	1	5.16				
Laurel	90	50	73	68	+5	0.00	-1.20	0	5.30				
Newton	89	49	71	66	+5	0.04	-1.11	1	11.02	81	61	72	0.19
Extreme/Average	90	49	72	69	+3	0.19	-0.93	1	6.90	81	61	72	0.19
10. Coastal													
Bay St Louis	87	47	68	69	-1	0.00	-1.26	0	2.94				
Gulfport	87	58	74	71	+3	0.00	-1.24	0	4.05				
Pascagoula	83	53	70	69	+1	0.00	-1.18	0	2.57				
Poplarville	90	56	73	69	+4	0.00	-1.26	0	4.92	90	67	79	0.23
Waveland	88	57	73	70	+3	0.00	-1.26	0	3.77				
Extreme/Average	90	47	72	71	+1	0.00	-1.12	0	3.92	90	67	79	0.23
State	91	46	72	68	+4	0.14	-1.08	1	5.41	96	61	76	0.24

DFN = Departure from Normal.